

EXHIBIT 19

1 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS
THIRD DIVISION

2 EDISON RUNYAN; DWIGHT PIPES; EARL L. PURIFOY; JOHN ROSS,
3 As the Legal Representative of ELIZABETH ROSS; MARY
WEIDMAN, DURAIN WEIDMAN; MARION HARRIS; and VAN R.
4 NOLAN, Each Individually, and on Behalf of All Others
Similarly Situated.

Plaintiffs

6 V. CV 2009-2066

7 TRANSAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY; LIFE INVESTORS
8 INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA; MONUMENTAL LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY; and AEGON USA, INC..

Defendants

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BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the 17th day of
November, 2009, the above-referenced cause came before
Honorable Jay Moody for hearing. The proceedings
had and done as follows:

1 A P P E A R A N C E S
2

3 REPRESENTING THE PLAINTIFFS:

4 TOM THOMPSON, Esquire
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9 REPRESENTING THE DEFENDANTS:

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16 REPRESENTING THE GOAD GROUP OBJECTORS/INTERVENORS:

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19 W. LLOYD COPELAND, Esquire
20 Taylor Martino Zarzaur, PC
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1 THE COURT: All right. We are on the record in
2 civil case 2009-2066, Edison Runyan, et al, v.
3 Transamerica Life Insurance Company, et al, here on our
4 third hearing on motion to intervene. Today I
5 understand it is the -- I hope I pronounce this right,
6 Goad --

7 MR. KITTERMAN: Goad.

8 THE COURT: -- McCarthy, and White motions,
9 except I think Ms. White has been pulled? For some
10 reason in my memory, White is gone. It's Edwin Jones
11 that's being withdrawn. I'd continue, but she can't
12 hear me.

13 (Discussion held off the record due to power outage.)

14 THE COURT: Does anybody have any objection to me
15 granting Evelyn Jones' motion to withdraw her
16 objection?

17 MS. McCABE: No, Your Honor.

18 MR. BAUDIN: No, Your Honor.

19 MR. COPELAND: We withdrew her as a proposed
20 intervenor, too, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: We'll start with the easy stuff.
22 That motion will be granted. So we move on to the
23 motion to intervene, which will likely be followed up
24 with a motion to conduct limited discovery, motion for
25 leave to withdraw objections. Well, we've already done

1 that. And the motion to assess costs. So with that,
2 Mr. Copeland, since you were standing, I'll give you
3 the floor. And you can probably either stand there or
4 at the podium, whichever you are more comfortable with.
5 It makes no difference to us. I'll just let you do
6 whatever you're comfortable doing.

7 MR. COPELAND: I'm an old-timey lawyer. I'd
8 prefer the podium, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: I understand. Some do. So go right
10 ahead.

11 MR. COPELAND: May it please the Court, there is
12 one other motion that might be easy, if you'd like me
13 to take a crack at that first, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. Take them in whatever
15 order you'd like.

16 MR. COPELAND: That's the motion for late
17 submission of proof of class membership. The
18 defendants said in their responsive document that they
19 didn't have any objection to us filing proof of class
20 membership late for the purpose of speaking at the
21 hearing, as long as we got it before the fairness
22 hearing. And that's been done. So I assume that you-
23 all have no problem with that aspect of it.

24 MS. McCABE: That's correct.

25 MR. COPELAND: There may still be an issue with

1 that relating to the motion to intervene, but there's
2 not as far as appearing at the fairness hearing.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 MR. COPELAND: And did Your Honor want to hear
5 first the motion for limited intervention?

6 THE COURT: Sure.

7 MR. COPELAND: Before -- Your Honor, before I
8 talk about what we're trying to do with these motions
9 today and with the objection, let me just touch real
10 briefly on what we're not trying to do.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 MR. COPELAND: We are not here to try to torpedo
13 this settlement. We are not here to try to blow up
14 this settlement so that we can harvest a bunch more
15 plaintiffs. We are -- we, unlike most of the other
16 objectors who filed amicus briefs in federal court in
17 Chattanooga, Tennessee, supporting that federal
18 injunction, we didn't file.

19 We're not trying to -- as I said, to blow up the
20 hearing. What we are trying to do is to assist the
21 Court in evaluating the settlement, as the settlement
22 is impacted by increased future premiums paid by the
23 class members. And when it comes down to hearing the
24 objection at the hearing, the Court may agree or
25 disagree with the objection. But we believe that

1 raising that issue is going to give the Court
2 information that's important for it to consider in
3 evaluating the fairness of the settlement. And we come
4 by our opinion of what will assist the Court in
5 evaluating the settlement based on our personal
6 experience.

7 Mr. Martino and I -- who is not here today
8 because he came down sick, had to go to the doctor.
9 Mr. Martino and I were class counsel in the Skelton v.
10 Central United case that's been cited in all the
11 parties' briefs, which was another national class
12 action settlement involving actual charges supplemental
13 cancer policies. We were class counsel in that case.
14 And we determined, in our opinion, that in order for
15 the settlement to be fair to the class as a whole, that
16 it had to have a target loss ratio to limit future
17 premiums, as opposed to the one-year premium freeze
18 that appears here.

19 Now, on the motion for limited intervention,
20 intervention solely for the purpose of appeal, let me
21 get one thing out of the way right at the beginning.
22 We asked to intervene both as a right and permissive
23 intervention. And as far as permission of right --
24 intervention as a matter of right is concerned -- all
25 right.

1 THE COURT: Give us two seconds so we can let her
2 turn on her recorder on if she needs to.

3 (Discussion held off the record after power outage.)

4 THE COURT: All right. We're back up.

5 MR. COPELAND: Your Honor, as I had said before
6 the blackout, we had originally moved for an
7 intervention both of right and permissive intervention.
8 And they rely on the DeJulius case to say that we can't
9 intervene as a matter of right. And we had tried to
10 distinguish that in our brief. And the more I looked
11 at it, I said, you know, they're right. DeJulius does
12 keep us from intervening as matter of right. So I
13 concede that one. They're right on that one.

14 So it's a matter of permissive intervention. And
15 that's completely discretionary with the Court. And as
16 I had mentioned earlier, the purpose of the limited
17 intervention is one purpose only, to appeal in the
18 event the objection is overruled. You have to
19 intervene to be able to appeal.

20 And I just suggest to the Court that the issue
21 is, if the Court does disagree with our objection -- if
22 the Court disagrees with our objection but still thinks
23 that it's seriously debatable, is appellate review
24 appropriate in the best interest of the class as a
25 whole? I suggest that that's the issue before the

1 Court. And the Court can't really decide that until
2 the Court hears the substantive presentation on the
3 objection at the fairness from us, from the defendants,
4 and all the presentations at the fairness hearing. And
5 in keeping with our original purpose, what we want to
6 do is try to assist the Court with evaluating the
7 settlement.

8 I would suggest that the Court should defer
9 ruling on the motion to intervene until at the
10 conclusion of the fairness hearing and it has heard
11 everything where it can make a decision, if it does
12 disagree with our objection, whether it thinks that
13 objection is seriously debatable, such an appeal would
14 be appropriate. Until then, the Court can't make this
15 determination. And we can present our objection at the
16 fairness hearing. We don't have to intervene to do
17 that. We can present that as objectors. And I would
18 submit that that is -- would be the appropriate
19 procedure to follow with the objection, defer it on
20 that basis.

21 Now, I'll be -- let me be perfectly candid with
22 the Court about one thing is that if there is an
23 appeal, it's going to delay the implementation of the
24 settlement. The settlement agreement provides for
25 that. But again, if, after the Court hears everything

1 that's presented, I would submit that the issue comes,
2 you know, if our objection is seriously debatable, even
3 if Your Honor disagrees with it, does fairness to the
4 class as a whole support delaying that implementation
5 rather than going forward with the settlement that may
6 be unfair to the class as a whole?

7 And that's what I'm saying procedurally about the
8 intervention for the limited purpose of appeal. We're
9 not going to come back later at the fairness hearing
10 and try to present a whole bunch of new arguments on it
11 because based on what I've said today, the Court can
12 make that decision on whether to allow the intervention
13 based on what it hears and evaluates at the fairness
14 hearing.

15 Now, there were some procedural responses to the
16 motion to intervene that I can touch on real briefly.
17 The first contention was that we didn't have a pleading
18 attached when the intervention rule requires the claim
19 or defense of a proposed intervenor to be set out in an
20 attached pleading. Well, the attached pleading would
21 have been our objections, which we already filed. The
22 claim or defense isn't applied literally in the class
23 action context.

24 THE REPORTER: I didn't understand you. The
25 claim or --

1 MR. COPELAND: If the court reporter didn't
2 understand what I said, it's bad. The claim or
3 defense. The rule requires the claim or defense of the
4 proposed intervenor to be set out in an attached
5 pleading. And in the class action context, that's not
6 applied literally because most objectors -- objectors
7 seeking to intervene usually aren't trying to assert a
8 claim or defense. They're objecting to the settlement
9 on some basis. So our pleading -- our operative
10 pleading for the purposes of the intervention for
11 appeal have already been filed, the objections.

12 The other -- another contention was that we
13 hadn't filed the intervention motion by the objection
14 deadline. It was filed a little bit after that. First
15 off, there's nothing in the preliminary approval order
16 or the notice that says you've got to file intervention
17 motions by that deadline.

18 But more importantly, the timeliness factor of an
19 intervention goes to delay and prejudice in an
20 intervenor coming in late and asserting -- wanting to
21 do things that would disrupt the proceedings and things
22 of that nature. That's not the case with our limited
23 intervention. All we want to do is to be able to
24 appeal. We are not proposing to do anything with the
25 intervention that would delay or protract the fairness

1 hearing. So I would suggest it's timely.

2 The defendants had also raised the late filing of
3 proof of class membership in this context also. It's
4 completely within the Court's discretion to -- to
5 relieve an objector from a late filing. And if the
6 Court wants to hear why, I can tell you why we late-
7 filed. It was me. I made the mistake.

8 But the Court has complete discretion to relieve
9 an objector from late filing. It's totally
10 discretionary. And again, for the reasons I just
11 talked about, there is no prejudice. The fairness
12 hearing hadn't even been rescheduled yet. Nobody is
13 going to be prejudiced by it.

14 There was also -- finally, there was an argument
15 that there must be a unique characteristic for an
16 intervenor for permissive intervention, that the
17 intervenor has to bring something new to the table. We
18 don't do that.

19 But if you look at where they made that argument
20 in their brief, the federal case they cited was talking
21 about at that point -- was talking about intervention
22 as a matter of right, not permissive intervention.
23 When you go on down in their brief and they quote
24 further from the case, the same court said -- talking
25 about in denying permissive intervention, said

1 participation as intervenors would not accomplish more
2 than participation as objectors. And that's pretty
3 good logic. But in that case, they didn't seek
4 intervention so they could appeal, which is what we
5 seek to do here, which does accomplish more than just
6 participation as objectors.

7 And that's pretty much -- that's pretty much what
8 I've got to say on the limited intervention motion.
9 Does Your Honor want me to go through all the rest of
10 them or let these folks reply, or however the Court
11 wants to proceed?

12 THE COURT: You guys weren't here yesterday, but
13 I had not anticipated ruling on the motions to
14 intervene at least until the end of this hearing, and
15 maybe not until the one last person on October the 1st.
16 So I would prefer to hear each motion separately so if
17 I ask the hearing to be transcribed, I don't have to
18 flip back and forth between arguments. I can go
19 through all this one and then turn the page, go to all
20 the next one. So if it's not too much trouble to keep
21 calling you up, I am going to let them go and use each
22 one.

23 MR. COPELAND: No problem whatsoever.

24 THE COURT: All right.

25 MS. McCABE: Good afternoon, Your Honor. May it

1 please the Court, Julie McCabe for the defendants. I
2 appreciate Mr. Copeland conceding that there is no
3 right to intervene in this case under the DeJulius
4 authority. I think that will save us some time this
5 morning.

6 As the Court is well aware, we were here
7 yesterday and we argued two similar motions to
8 intervene filed by other class members in this case.
9 And we argued this those intervenors did not meet the
10 standard for permissive intervention or intervention as
11 a right. And these particular proposed intervenors are
12 no different, Your Honor.

13 Before we get to Rule 24, I'd like to mention one
14 interesting thing about this motion is basically who
15 has filed this motion and who these proposed
16 intervenors are represented by. These attorneys,
17 Mr. Copeland and Mr. Martino, who is not here today,
18 were the attorneys who represented the plaintiffs in
19 the Skelton case. And the Skelton case is an "actual
20 charges" case against another insurance company
21 unrelated to the defendants here.

22 That was settled, and these attorneys were
23 proponents of that settlement, as I believe
24 Mr. Copeland mentioned. And that settlement had less
25 relief and narrower relief than this settlement does.

1 So it's interesting to me that they have filed
2 objections in this case. There are four proposed
3 intervenors here. And as we stated, we did not object
4 to the motion to withdraw the fifth.

5 Like Mr. Crager and Mr. Shepherd, the plaintiffs'
6 motion in this case does not cite a single authority
7 which permits the intervention they seek. In fact,
8 they only cite the DeJulius and Ballard cases, both of
9 which are authorities that go against them.

10 And with respect to the procedural issues first,
11 Your Honor, under Rule 24(c), the Court's analysis in
12 this particular instance can begin and end with this
13 rule. This motion does not attach a pleading. And
14 unlike the Crager motion, Your Honor, they have not
15 attempted to cure that defect.

16 Rule 24(c) states that a motion to intervene must
17 be accompanied by a pleading which sets forth the claim
18 for which intervention is sought. There has been an
19 admission here that there is no claim for which
20 intervention is sought. And these movants have
21 informed the Court that they consider their objections
22 their pleading, which is directly contrary to the
23 procedural rule and the Arkansas Rule of Civil
24 Procedure 7, which defines a pleading as a complaint an
25 answer, etc. An objection, Your Honor, is not a

1 pleading. And the Arkansas Supreme Court case directly
2 on point is Polnac-Hartman & Association v. First
3 National Bank at 292 Ark. 501, where the Arkansas
4 Supreme Court affirmed the denial of a motion for leave
5 to intervene for this very reason.

6 The Court found that the proposed intervenor who
7 had not attached a complaint setting forth his claim
8 and who had merely attached some documents which he
9 claimed entitled him to intervene in a dispute over
10 land was defective and that denial of the motion was
11 appropriate, and that a motion to intervene that does
12 not attach a pleading, quote, "Had not shown
13 entitlement to intervene as a matter of right or
14 permissively." This case, Your Honor, can begin and
15 end the discussion on this particular motion.

16 In the event that the Court does wish to consider
17 the merits of the motion, the purpose of the motion,
18 identified as the sole purpose in the pleading, in the
19 brief, is to attempt to create an appellate remedy for
20 these intervenors as objectors. And that rationale has
21 been also expressly rejected in the Ballard case, where
22 the Arkansas Supreme Court said that the lack of an
23 appellate remedy would be the direct result of an
24 intervenor's strategic election not to opt out. Now,
25 that was a case discussing intervention of right, but

1 the same analysis applies here.

2 If you had a chance to opt out and you chose not
3 to, you can't simply create a right to intervene by
4 objecting. And the reason for that is clear.

5 Otherwise, every objector could be an intervenor, so
6 there would be no need for the intervention rule. All
7 you would need to do would be to object. Then you
8 would be an intervenor and you could appeal, and that
9 rule is expressly rejected by the Arkansas Supreme
10 Court.

11 Even you could intervene in an appropriate basis
12 to preserve your right to appeal the denial of an
13 objection, this motion should be denied because these
14 objections simply contend that these proposed
15 intervenors would have negotiated a different premium
16 rate relief in this case than the class representatives
17 negotiated. And the authorities are well settled, and
18 there are many of them, which say that simply objecting
19 to one type of settlement relief over another is
20 insufficient to support intervention.

21 Defendants in this case have made some
22 significant concessions in this litigation in order to
23 arrive at this settlement. They have offered millions
24 of dollars of monetary relief and nonmonetary relief to
25 the class. Thousands of class members have registered

1 for that relief, and they are waiting and wondering
2 whether and when they will receive it.

3 There are four people in this motion that want to
4 hold up this settlement with the right to appeal after
5 the fairness hearing and deny and delay that relief,
6 and that violates the standard of delay and prejudice
7 under Rule 24(b)(2), where 99.995 percent of the class
8 has neither objected nor moved to intervene, such an
9 objection or a motion to intervene would be
10 inappropriately granted, Your Honor. That's why
11 intervention in a settlement like this is virtually
12 never permitted. That's why it was opposed by these
13 same counsel in the Skelton case successfully. And
14 that's why it should be denied here.

15 All of the authorities that I mentioned
16 yesterday, Your Honor, during a hearing on the other
17 motions to intervene under Rule 24(b)(2) apply equally.
18 The treatises explain that permissive intervention is
19 generally denied, especially if it would result in
20 delay in the existing action. And I won't rehash all
21 the federal cases that are recited in our briefs, but
22 I'll mention two, just two. The first is In re
23 Domestic Air Transportation case out of the Northern
24 District of Georgia. And that case explained the
25 concept that a simple request to replace one negotiated

1 form of relief with another violates the principle that
2 the proposed intervenor must bring some unique
3 characteristic to the table that is not already
4 represented.

5 The existing class representatives in this case
6 made claims related to premiums. They resolved claims
7 related to premiums. They chose a one-year premium
8 rate freeze and an injunction that's going to permit
9 the company to settle these actual charges claims the
10 way it's been doing since 2006, which is going to save
11 the class over \$100 million in premium increases over
12 the next 10 years. So this expressed objection simply
13 does not support permissive intervention.

14 And the second case I'll mention is a Fifth
15 Circuit case which explains that a proposed
16 intervenor's mere dissatisfaction with a single aspect
17 of the settlement relief that they would have allegedly
18 negotiated differently is not sufficient to support
19 permissive intervention. And that's is the In Re
20 Corrugated Container Antitrust case at 643 F. 2d 195.
21 And the Court in that case says, and I quote, "Whether
22 another team of negotiators might have accomplished a
23 better settlement is a matter equally comprised of
24 conjecture and irrelevance." This Court, Your Honor,
25 should exercise its discretion, as most courts always

1 do, to deny intervention in this case. Thank you.

2 MR. BAUDIN: Your Honor, Stan Baudin on behalf of
3 the plaintiff class. The proposed intervenors suggest,
4 Your Honor, that their sole purpose for requesting an
5 intervention is so that they, as objectors, may appeal
6 in the event that their objections to the settlement
7 are overruled by Your Honor. They admit that they do
8 not seek to add new claims or parties to the
9 litigation, and they have failed to file a pleading in
10 comport with the Rule 24(c) in this case.

11 Your Honor, this runs counter, obviously, to the
12 rules and the purpose for an intervention in the first
13 place. If they don't want to add any new claims or
14 parties, then it's really not an intervention at all.

15 Further, the proposed intervenors suggest that
16 they are not seeking to preserve their own independent
17 claims and rights, but rather they're seeking to
18 preserve appeal rights on behalf of the other absent
19 class members. Your Honor, the proposed intervenors do
20 not represent the absent class members. They cannot
21 intervene to protect the rights of absent class
22 members. And they cannot file any future appeal, if
23 any is even available to them, on behalf of any absent
24 class members in this case.

25 Your Honor, the Arkansas Supreme Court has

1 already addressed the intervene to preserve appeal
2 rights issue in the Ballard case, which has already
3 been cited by defense counsel. By choosing to object
4 and attempting to intervene instead of opting out of
5 the case, the proposed intervenors have undertook the
6 risk that their motion to intervene may be denied by
7 this Court and that they would be bound by the
8 settlement.

9 Your Honor, as pointed out by defense counsel,
10 the proposed intervenors have not met their burden for
11 permissive intervention and they have already conceded
12 here that they do not meet the standard for
13 intervention as of right. They have also failed to
14 show Your Honor that their interests are not adequately
15 represented by the existing class representatives in
16 this case.

17 Not only would it be extremely prejudicial to the
18 existing parties and the class members if they were
19 allowed to intervene, but it would also cause undue
20 delay in this case, Your Honor. And we've already had
21 enough delay in this case.

22 Judge, we can find no Arkansas Supreme Court
23 cases, and they have cited none to you, where an
24 intervention has been allowed in a settlement class
25 setting. We believe this to be the case because the

1 proposed intervenors cannot meet the legal standard
2 under Rule 24, and because all courts recognize and
3 adhere to the established legal principle that
4 settlements are favored under the law.

5 Allowing interventions in a class settlement
6 setting such as this would have just the opposite
7 effect. It would promote endless, expensive, and time-
8 and resource-consuming contested litigation. And that
9 is not in the best interest of the parties or the class
10 members or this Court. And for all the reasons we
11 outline in our brief, and those stated in oral argument
12 today, we would request that the Court deny the
13 proposed intervention. Thank you, Your Honor.

14 MR. COPELAND: Your Honor, I think I covered most
15 of the points that they made in my initial
16 presentation, so I'm going to try not to be repetitive.
17 But what most of this boils down to is is that if you
18 don't attach a claim or defense, then you can never
19 have an intervention by an objector in a class action.
20 And objectors in class actions typically don't seek to
21 intervene to assert a new claim or defense. They seek
22 to intervene to point out what they perceive to be
23 flaws with the settlement.

24 So if that's correct, if they're correct, you can
25 never have an intervention in a class action. But in

1 the federal system, intervention in a class action is
2 discretionary with the Court, which is what we're
3 asking the Court to do today is to exercise its
4 discretion. Arkansas rules are based on civil rules.
5 And we're asking the Court to exercise its discretion
6 after it's heard everything at the fairness hearing.
7 And if the Court does disagree with us, decide if the
8 issue is serious enough to permit intervention for the
9 purpose of appeal.

10 I was a little -- I was interested to hear the
11 statement about whether a better settlement could be
12 achieved as a matter of equal part of conjecture and
13 speculation, because that's one of my favorite quotes.
14 I've used that defending settlements on various
15 occasions. And it's all true.

16 The issue is not whether a better settlement
17 could be achieved. The issue is whether this
18 settlement is unfair for the reason that we assert, the
19 lack of a mechanism to reduce the frequency and extent
20 of premium increases in the future. And that's what --
21 we are going to talk about the substance of that and
22 the nuts and bolts of that at the hearing and why we
23 would ask Your Honor to defer the decision until after
24 the hearing. Does the Court have any questions on
25 this?

1 THE COURT: You can have a seat. I may, but go
2 ahead. I am going to see what Mr. Baker has to say.

3 MR. BAKER: Your Honor, I just want to, I
4 guess --

5 THE COURT: You just want to appear here on the
6 record to justify your presence.

7 MR. BAKER: I need to somehow show that I have
8 earned some keep here with my client. But what
9 Mr. Copeland is suggesting is something that he needs
10 to take up with the rules committee out at the Supreme
11 Court because what he's suggesting is not anything
12 permitted under either Rule 23 or 24. If you, at the
13 fairness hearing, believe that there is concern or
14 cause that makes this settlement incomplete or unfair
15 or not even fully thought out, he then wants you to
16 permit them to intervene, not as a party, but to take
17 your concerns up.

18 A, that's not permitted under Rule 23 or 24. But
19 B, if you have those concerns, Rule 23 makes you
20 reformulate it or put it on hold or go to the counsel
21 that's already in the case and say, "I need you to
22 address these things. I need to you look into these
23 before I'm comfortable certifying the settlement." So
24 his procedural theory of how it would go up when you,
25 yourself, are concerned about it, that's not how you

1 would do it.

2 I can't imagine that you would say, "Well, I
3 don't really think it works or covers this, but I'll go
4 ahead and approve it anyway." That's not how it works.
5 You have to be comfortable with it and believe that
6 it's fair.

7 And so this whole logic of how they would
8 intervene, not as a party, but to become some hybrid
9 appellant is nowhere in Rule 24, and it's not anywhere
10 in Rule 23. And it's an interesting theory. But he
11 needs to amend the Rules of Civil Procedure to permit
12 that kind of theory to be a reality. It's not
13 permitted under the rules.

14 MR. COPELAND: Your Honor, might I say one thing
15 real briefly in response to that?

16 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

17 MR. COPELAND: We're not saying that if the Court
18 is uncomfortable with the settlement that the Court
19 should disregard that concern and let us appeal. What
20 we're saying is, as happens all the time, a Court can
21 disagree with a litigant and overrule his objection,
22 but still say, "I disagree with that. But, you know,
23 there is some substance to it."

24 That's the -- that is what we are looking at. If
25 the Court finds itself in that position at the end of

1 the hearing, that's what we would be asking the Court
2 to allow the intervention for appeal.

3 THE COURT: I've got a factual question that may
4 easily be resolved. Somewhere with reading all these
5 pleadings, is one -- I think I know which one, is one
6 of these proposed intervenors already opted out of the
7 class, or are they all still in the class moving to
8 intervene?

9 Because some of the discussion that I had heard
10 said, "You've got to make an election whether or not to
11 opt out and go about your way or stay in the class and
12 intervene," which was a little contrary to what I
13 thought that one of these parties had opted out but was
14 trying to intervene.

15 MR. COPELAND: There is none of ours that have
16 opted out that are trying to get back in to intervene.

17 THE COURT: I don't know why. I couldn't point
18 to it specifically. But I thought in reading -- maybe
19 it was the fact that Jones is withdrawing.

20 MR. BAKER: There are people who wish to
21 intervene who have not opted out but also have not
22 timely filed claims.

23 THE COURT: I'm talking about people who have
24 opted out that are trying to intervene.

25 MR. BAKER: I don't believe --

1 MR. BAUDIN: I don't think we have.

2 MS. McCABE: No, Your Honor. There are proposed
3 intervenors who are represented by counsel who also
4 represent opt-outs. But the opt-outs themselves are
5 not attempting to intervene. They have -- those
6 counsel have separate parties.

7 THE COURT: So if I set aside the timeliness
8 arguments for a moment, everybody who is attempting to
9 intervene has a right to object to the settlement if we
10 set aside the other technical arguments why they
11 shouldn't?

12 MS. McCABE: Yes, Your Honor. They have objected
13 to the settlement and they have noticed their intent to
14 appear at the fairness hearing. That's correct.

15 THE COURT: I guess some of them may have done
16 that either late or have some technical deficiencies
17 that I still have to address. But the arguments
18 Mr. Turner had yesterday that we just want to be heard
19 on our objections is going to happen whether I allow
20 them to intervene or not, which is what I understood.
21 But he seemed to argue that absent intervention, he was
22 not going to be heard on his objections.

23 MS. McCABE: That's not correct, Your Honor.

24 MR. COPELAND: We can be heard as objectors
25 without intervening. There's no question about that,

1 Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: I was given an argument that seemed
3 to indicate otherwise yesterday, and I just wanted to
4 clear that up. I should have done that then.

5 MR. COPELAND: That's just wrong. I think that's
6 something that for once, we can all agree on something.

7 THE COURT: So is there no -- as the rules are
8 today, is there no appellate review to my decision on
9 objections to a class action settlement?

10 MR. COPELAND: I think there --

11 THE COURT: Absent intervention?

12 MR. COPELAND: Yes. I think that's correct. I
13 think absent intervention, that there is no right to
14 appeal the denial of objections to the class action
15 settlement, which comes back to one of my points.

16 THE COURT: I mean, that's what I had understood.
17 And so I'm trying to figure out if this intervention is
18 nothing more than an attempt to end-run that
19 prohibition to appeal my decision. And that may be
20 exactly what it is. I'm not saying that's evil or
21 untoward. I mean, you do what you can do with what
22 you've been dealt. But from what I understand is,
23 these intervention motions are to provide you with a
24 right of appeal that you would not otherwise have.

25 MR. COPELAND: That we can only acquire -- we can

1 only acquire if we intervene. That's correct.

2 MR. BAKER: They're not a party otherwise.

3 THE COURT: They're not a party for purposes of
4 appeal. They're just class members.

5 MR. COPELAND: The Arkansas Supreme Court -- or a
6 case that reached that decision on you have to
7 intervene to be able to appeal, that was an offshoot of
8 a U.S. Supreme Court case that decided to the contrary
9 in the federal system. The states have split on that.

10 But it -- the DeJulius case, of course, says no
11 intervention as a matter of right because you've opted
12 out. It doesn't talk about permissive intervention,
13 which is totally discretionary with the Court. The
14 Court denies that, we can't take Your Honor up on that.

15 But it seems to me that you are putting an
16 objector in a catch 22 position if -- with permissive
17 intervention, if the theory is that, well, you can't do
18 that either because you're solely trying to gain
19 appeal. Otherwise, there can be no appeal ever from an
20 overruled objection. There can be no appellate review.

21 THE COURT: Anything further for the record? Did
22 we start without you?

23 GALLERY: I guess so.

24 THE COURT: Sorry about that. Anything further
25 before we go off the record?

1 MS. McCABE: No, Your Honor.

2 MR. COPELAND: No, sir.

3 THE COURT: You seem anxious to do something
4 else, Mr. Baker. What do you want to do?

5 MR. BAKER: No.

6 THE COURT: We're not going off the record. I
7 guess we're just going on to another subject.

8 MR. BAKER: That's what I was wondering. I
9 thought we had other things to cover. Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: So we move on to the motion to
11 conduct limited discovery. Mr. Copeland, what do you
12 have to say on that issue?

13 MR. COPELAND: Your Honor, I'm going to say
14 basically the same thing that I said on the last one.

15 THE COURT: Do you want me to adopt all of that
16 or do you want to say it again?

17 MR. COPELAND: I am going to try to be as
18 unrepetitive as I can this time. Our original intent
19 when we filed these motions, these motions for limited
20 discovery, just focused on the future premium relief
21 issue, was to ask the Court to look at that, wait and
22 take things, see how the fairness hearing plays out
23 because the whole purpose of this endeavor is to make
24 sure that the Court is comfortable with having enough
25 information to evaluate the settlement. We don't want

1 to engage in a bunch of duplicative or nonessential
2 discovery. And we recognize that discovery by
3 objectors is not favored. I've deflected discovery
4 attempts by objectors before.

5 But again, the whole point is for the Court to
6 have enough information where it's comfortable
7 evaluating the settlement. Now, the Court may look at
8 the information at the fairness hearing and say, "I've
9 got enough to make my decision." And what I'm hoping
10 is going to happen, the defendants said in their brief
11 that they had considered a target loss ratio as part of
12 the settlement, but they decided to reject it in view
13 of the regime that they proposed to the Court.

14 Well, if that's the case, then they ought to
15 be able, when they present their evidence at the
16 fairness hearing, to tell the Court how certain
17 proposed target loss ratios would affect the
18 settlement, would -- to the class as a whole, what
19 effect that would have. If they can do that at the
20 fairness hearing, then we -- you know, we may not need
21 any discovery. We probably won't if they can produce
22 that information to the Court. I would hope they would
23 produce it in light of the objection we made, that they
24 would make that showing to the Court.

25 But I think it's -- we don't want to go on a

1 fishing expedition right now and disrupt these
2 proceedings. If the Court, at the fairness hearing,
3 feels like it's got enough information to reach a
4 decision, an informed decision, that's fine. On the
5 other hand, if the Court, after hearing our objection,
6 says, "I've got some concerns about this," you know,
7 fairness hearings are recessed all the time. At that
8 point, we can take a 30(b) (6) pretty quick. The Court
9 can do an expedited briefing schedule. There's a
10 number of ways the Court can handle it.

11 But I think it's -- it is premature for us to try
12 to seek discovery right now until the Court sees -- has
13 all the information it has -- it needs at the fairness
14 hearing. If the Court thinks it's got enough, then the
15 Court has got enough. But if the Court thinks it does
16 need some more information, then that's when some form
17 of expedited limited discovery to assist the Court
18 should be considered. Now, if --

19 THE COURT: Mr. Copeland, since I've got the
20 right, I guess, to decide this without appellate
21 review, don't I have a right to ask for that
22 information myself?

23 MR. COPELAND: Absolutely. Absolutely.

24 THE COURT: I've just been granted all kinds of
25 new powers and stuff, so --

1 MR. COPELAND: I'm sorry, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: I was being less than serious about
3 the proceedings, I should say. That's the most polite
4 way I can say it. I'm sorry. I made a smart-ass
5 remark. I'm sorry. I shouldn't say what I did. But I
6 apologize for saying that in the middle of your
7 argument. I didn't mean any disrespect.

8 MR. COPELAND: Your Honor, being less than
9 serious about my argument, you're not getting a virgin
10 when you do that.

11 THE COURT: I understand.

12 MR. COPELAND: That's basically our position on
13 that, Your Honor. If y'all want to talk about this
14 judicial estoppel argument on discovery --

15 THE COURT: Well, if that's the case, is there
16 any reason to even respond to the motion to conduct
17 limited discovery, since it's not ripe because they're
18 not even asking for it until after the fairness
19 hearing? I mean --

20 MS. McCABE: Are you -- well, Your Honor, in that
21 case, I think the motion should be denied without
22 prejudice for them to renew the motion if they believe
23 it's necessary after the fairness hearing.

24 THE COURT: It's probably cleaner that way
25 because that way, I don't forget. I'll deny it without

1 prejudice. That way, it won't come down because I
2 failed to rule on all the motions.

3 MR. COPELAND: That's fine.

4 MR. BAUDIN: Plaintiffs would agree with that,
5 Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Motion to produce proof of
7 membership. Did y'all work that out, or partially?

8 MR. COPELAND: We worked it out for the purpose
9 of appearing and objecting at the fairness hearing; is
10 that right?

11 MS. McCABE: Yes.

12 MR. COPELAND: I think they are still raising
13 that in connection with the motion to intervene.

14 MS. McCABE: Defendants are not -- the remaining
15 proposed intervenors are class members. We concede
16 that.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. BAUDIN: Same for plaintiffs, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: So is there anything for me to do on
20 that motion for leave to submit proof of membership, or
21 is that stipulated, so to speak?

22 MS. McCABE: We have no objection to your
23 granting that motion, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: All right. I'll grant it. I've
25 already dealt with Evelyn Jones. The motion to assess

1 costs?

2 MR. COPELAND: That's the last one, I think, Your
3 Honor.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Let's do it.

5 MR. COPELAND: Let me be real straightforward and
6 brief on this one, Your Honor. Our position is, they
7 should have told us that hearing was enjoined and they
8 didn't, reimburse us for our time and expenses.

9 THE COURT: What hearing?

10 MR. COPELAND: The fairness hearing. The
11 originally fairness hearing on July 27th.

12 THE COURT: The one the Tennessee judge enjoined?

13 MR. COPELAND: Right. That these folks didn't
14 tell us about at the end of the table.

15 THE COURT: I mean, I'm going to take that under
16 consideration. But I think I found out, if it was set
17 on Monday -- is that when it was?

18 MR. COPELAND: It was set on Monday. There was a
19 Friday afternoon hearing which --

20 THE COURT: I was informed Sunday at 4 o'clock.
21 I'll tell you that.

22 MR. COPELAND: I thought it was Saturday. I may
23 be mistaken.

24 THE COURT: I've got an e-mail that will say when
25 it was. I was informed over the weekend. And whether

1 or not I picked up that e-mail on Sunday, I'm not going
2 to swear when I read it or when I received it because I
3 don't know. But I know that I was told that a hearing
4 was going to be held and they expected some kind of
5 ruling on Friday. And I know that sometime over the
6 weekend, I was told when it was going to be.

7 I know that several people showed up not knowing
8 whether or not -- excuse my -- that I was going to
9 comply with the Tennessee judge or not, I suspect.
10 Maybe, maybe not. I don't know. They had no idea what
11 I might do. And that's why some people showed up.
12 Others because they didn't know anything about the
13 hearing being stayed. So I'm commenting a lot of
14 things just -- I'm thinking through my head. But I
15 will -- I am going to deny the motion for costs on
16 that, I think.

17 MR. COPELAND: I am not going to beat a dead
18 judicial horse. Thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Through on the record? Going?
20 Going?

21 MR. COPELAND: I think that's all we have.

22 MR. BAKER: Your Honor, we appreciate your time.

23 THE COURT: Gone. Thank you. Off the record.

24 (Discussion held off the record.)

25 * * * * *

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF ARKANSAS)
3) SS.
COUNTY OF PULASKI)

4 I, TAMMIE L. FOREMAN, CRR, RPR, CCR, official court
5 reporter for the Third Division Circuit Court, Pulaski
6 County, Arkansas, certify that I reported the
7 proceedings by stenographic machine shorthand, reporting
8 in the case of
EDISON RUNYAN; DWIGHT PIPES; EARL L. PURIFOY; JOHN ROSS,
As the Legal Representative of ELIZABETH ROSS; MARY
WEIDMAN, DURAIN WEIDMAN; MARION HARRIS; and VAN R.
NOLAN, Each Individually, and on Behalf of All Others
Similarly Situated,

Plaintiffs

9 V. CV 2009-2066
10 TRANSAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY; LIFE INVESTORS
INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA; MONUMENTAL LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY; and AEGON USA, INC.,

11 Defendants

12 before the Honorable Jay Moody, Pulaski County Circuit
13 Judge, at Little Rock, Arkansas; that said proceedings
have been reduced to a transcription by me by means of
14 computer-aided transcription, and the foregoing pages 1
through 35 constitute a true and transcript of the
proceedings held to the best of my ability, along with
15 all items of evidence admitted into evidence.

16 I further certify that I am not a relative or
employee of any of the parties, or of counsel, nor am I
financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of
17 this action.

18 I serve as an impartial officer of the court and
19 abide by all professional and ethical principles of the
National Court Reporters Association.

20 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL on this 28th day of
September, 2009.

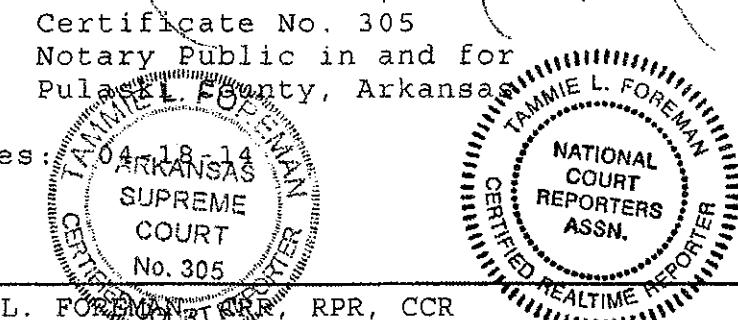
21 My Commission Expires:

22 10/04/14

23

24

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